

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W

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R 081251Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1950

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2188

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNGA HS XA

SUBJ: ROK MISSION TO ETHIOPIA

REF: SEOUL 9412

1. ROKG MOFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TREATIES BUREAU DIRECTOR CHUNG U-YONG CALLED ON CHARGE DEC. 6, AC- COMPANIED BY LORIENA AMBASSADOR PAK JUN HA. CHUNG WAS ACTIVELY SEEKING POSITIVE STEPS THAT KOREA COUIF TAKE TO IMPORVE RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTTIES. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT STANDPAT ATTITUDE VIS-A-VIS AVOWEDLY SOCIALIST ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT WAS NOT HELPFUL TO ROK'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION, BUT AT SAME TIME ROK WAS RELUCTANT TO INSTITUTE ADI OR OTHER MEASURES WITH NO TANGIBLE RETURN FROM ETHIOPIAN SIDE. HE POINTED OUT THAT EPMG HAD CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED NORTH KOREAN POSITION ON UN RESOLUTION IN RECNET YEARS, AND THAT NORTH KOREA HAD SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH ETHIOPIA IN SEPTEMBER TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON IRRIGATION, EXPEANSION OF HYDROELECTRIC FACILITIES, AND DAM CONSTRUCTION. GIVEN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, ROK WAS PERPLEXED AS TO WHICH DIRECTION TO GO.

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2. CHARGE ASSURED CHUNG THAT ROK WAS NOT ONLY COUNTRY THAT IS PERPLEXED, BUT THEN WENT ON TO EXPLAIN WHY US BELIEIVES THAT POLICY OF RELATIVE CONSTANCY WAS BEST COURSE FOR PRESENT, GIVEN FACT THAT A GENUINE REVOLU-

TION WAS TAKING PLACE IN ETHIOPIA, THAT THIS REVOLUTION WAS STILL IN ITS EARLY STAGES, AND THAT UNTIL TRIAL AND ERROR PERIOD CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE IS COMPLETED, IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT EXACT COURSE WHICH EPMG WOULD TAKE IN SOLVING ITS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND IN ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. PUBLIC TRAPPINGS OF SOCIALISM WERE OFTEN IRRITATING TO US AND OTHER WESTERN GOVERNMENTS, BUT LIMITATIONS OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN PROVIDING GENUINE ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA WERE REAL, AND THIS FACT WOULD PRESUMABLY DAWN UPON EPMG LEADERS EVENTUALLY. MEANWHILE THERE APPEARED TO BE GROWING DISENCHANTMENT WITHIN THIRD WORLD WITH HEAVY-HANDED NORTH KOREAN TACTICS AT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO AND ELSEWHERE, AND THIS FACT MIGHT ALSO HAVE EFFECTS IN FUTURE ON EPMG ATTITUDE.

3. CHUNG INDICATED THAT BILATERAL TRADE WAS GROWING AT HEALTHY RATE, AND HE IMPLIED THAT ROK SEEKING SOME USEFUL PROJECT IN FIELD OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AS MEANS OF RESTORING RELATIONSHIP WITH EPMG CLOSER TO THAT WHICH EXISTED IN POST-KOREAN WAR DAYS. AMBASSADOR PAK WAS LESS OPTIMISTIC, ALTHOUGH HE HAD RECEIVED VAGUE REASSURANCES FROM PMAC POLITICAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BERHANU BAYEH DURING CONVERSATION IN SEPTEMBER. BOTH WERE DUBIOUS ABOUT US POLICY OF RESTRAINT, CLAIMING THAT US SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXERT GREATER INFLUENCE ON COURSE OF ETHIOPIAN EVENTS, GIVER HEAVY ETHIOPIAN DEPENDENCE UPON US MILITARY ASSISTANCE. IN CLOSING, CHUNG MADE IT QUITE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT DESPITE UNCERTAINTIES OF THE PRESENT, ROK HAD NO IMMEDIATE INTENTION OF CHANGING ITS PRESENT RELATIONSHIP WITH EPMG, BUT WOULD LIKE TO FIND WAYS TO STRENGTHEN IT. TIENKEN

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